

IN THE CLAIMS

The pending claims read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1-37. (Canceled).

38. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating information relating to the scheduling of uplink data transmissions, wherein a mobile terminal uses a plurality of Hybrid Automatic Repeat reQuest (HARQ) processes to transmit uplink data via an Enhanced Uplink Dedicated Channel of a Universal Mobile Telecommunication System (UMTS) to a plurality of base stations during soft handover of the mobile terminal in a mobile communication system, and wherein at least one scheduling base station of said plurality of base stations schedules uplink data transmissions of the mobile terminal in soft handover, the method comprising:

determining, at the at least one scheduling base station of said plurality of base stations, scheduling information for the mobile terminal indicative of allocated maximum amount of uplink resources for the mobile terminal applicable to individual HARQ processes to be used by the mobile terminal for uplink data transmission,

transmitting, from the at least one scheduling base station, information to at least one other base station of said plurality of base stations to inform the at least one other base station on the applicability of the allocated maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes, and

scheduling, by the at least one other base station, at least one other mobile terminal in communication with a respective base station based on the information received from the at least one scheduling base station.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, further comprising signaling by said at least one scheduling base station the determined scheduling information to the mobile terminal in soft handover to allocate the maximum amount of uplink resources to the mobile terminal for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the maximum amount of uplink resources applicable on the individual HARQ processes used for uplink data transmissions indicates the maximum data rate or the maximum uplink transmission power ratio that may be used by the mobile terminal for uplink transmissions using the individual HARQ processes.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the at least one scheduling base station schedules uplink data transmissions by controlling the Transport Format Combination Set (TFCS) available to the mobile terminal in soft handover for uplink data transmission or by controlling the uplink transmission power ratio of the mobile terminal.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the indicated allocated applicability of maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmission on the individual HARQ processes is transported via a serving radio network controller, and

wherein indicating the applicability of allocated maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmission on the HARQ processes comprises:

signaling the applicability of allocated maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes from the at least one scheduling base station to the serving radio network controller, and

informing the applicability of allocated maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes to the other base stations by the serving radio network controller.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42, wherein the serving radio network controller determines whether to forward the applicability of allocated maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes to a respective one of said other base stations based on cell interference within the radio cell controlled by the respective one of said other base stations.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the indicated allocated applicability of maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes for is transported using control signaling.

45. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the scheduling base station determines, signals and indicates the applicability of allocated maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes for the mobile terminal in soft handover each time the mobile terminal in soft handover is scheduled by the scheduling base station.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, further comprising determining at the at least one scheduling base station new scheduling information for the mobile terminal indicative of a new allocated maximum amount of uplink resources allocated to the mobile terminal for uplink data transmission on the individual HARQ processes,

signaling by the at least one scheduling base station the determined new scheduling information to the mobile terminal in soft handover to allocate to the mobile terminal the new maximum amount of uplink resources applicable on the individual HARQ processes for uplink data transmissions, and

informing said other base stations on the allocated new amount of uplink resources, if a difference between the new applicability of maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes and the previous applicability of maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes is larger than a predetermined threshold value.

47. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 46, further comprising receiving by the at least one scheduling base station information indicating the predetermined threshold value from a serving radio network controller.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein the plurality of base stations defines the active set of the mobile terminals in soft handover and wherein the method further comprises adding a base station to the active set of the mobile terminals and signaling the applicability of allocated maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes for the mobile terminal in soft handover to said added base station by the serving radio network controller.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein information for signaling of the applicability of maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes to said added base station is comprised within a message communicated during the active set update procedure.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein one base station of said plurality of base stations schedules uplink data transmissions of the mobile terminal in soft handover to all base stations of said plurality of base stations.

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein each of said base stations schedules uplink data transmissions of the mobile terminal in soft handover to the respective one of said plurality of base stations.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 51, wherein each of the plurality of base stations determines scheduling information for the mobile terminal indicative of an allocated maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmission on the individual HARQ processes allocated to the mobile terminal by the respective base station, and signals the determined scheduling information to the mobile terminal in soft handover to allocate the maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions using the individual HARQ processes to the terminal for uplink data transmission to the respective base station.

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 52, further comprising choosing by the mobile terminal the lowest assigned maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions using the individual HARQ processes for uplink transmissions to all base stations of the plurality of base stations.

54. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 53, further comprising forming by the mobile terminal a combined maximum amount of uplink resources on the assigned maximum amounts of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions using the HARQ processes, which is used by the mobile terminal for uplink transmissions to all base stations of the plurality of base stations.

55. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 52, wherein each of the plurality of base stations indicates its allocated applicability of maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the HARQ processes to a serving radio network controller and at least a subset of the plurality of base stations schedules at least one mobile terminal in communication with the respective base station taking into account a combined value or a lowest value of a maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes signaled to the respective base station from the serving radio network controller.

56. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 55, further comprising determining at the serving radio network controller a combined value or a lowest value of a maximum amount of uplink resources based on the maximum amounts of allocated resources indicated by the plurality of base stations and signaling the combined value or the lowest value of a maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes from the serving radio network controller to a subset of said plurality of base stations.

57. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 56, wherein the combined value or the lowest value of a maximum amount of uplink resources is signaled to those base stations having indicated a maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions using the HARQ processes different from the combined value or the lowest value.

58. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, further comprising requesting by a serving radio network controller from at least one base station of said plurality of base stations to signal the applicability of allocated maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes for the mobile terminal in soft handover to said serving radio network controller.

59. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the maximum allocated amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes is signaled from a base station to the mobile terminal via a shared channel or a dedicated channel.

60. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the transmitted uplink data is carried by an Enhanced Dedicated Channel (E-DCH).

61. (Previously Presented) A mobile communication system for communicating information relating to the scheduling of uplink data transmissions, wherein the communication system comprises:

a plurality of base stations; and
a mobile terminal that uses a plurality of Hybrid Automatic Repeat reQuest (HARQ) processes to transmit uplink data on an Enhanced Uplink Dedicated Channel of a Universal Mobile Telecommunication System (UMTS) to said plurality of base stations during soft handover of the mobile terminal in the mobile communication system,

wherein at least one scheduling base station of said plurality of base stations schedules uplink data transmissions of the mobile terminal in soft handover,

wherein the at least one scheduling base station of said plurality of base stations determines scheduling information for the mobile terminal indicative of an allocated maximum amount of uplink resources for the mobile terminal applicable to individual HARQ processes to be used by the mobile terminal for uplink data transmissions and transmits information to at least one other base station of the plurality of base stations to inform the at least one other base station on the applicability of the allocated maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the individual HARQ processes, and

wherein the at least one other base station schedules at least one other mobile terminal in communication with a respective base station based on the information received from the at least one scheduling base station.

62. (Previously Presented) The mobile communication system according to claim 61, wherein the at least one scheduling base station transmits the determined scheduling information to the mobile terminal in soft handover to allocate the maximum amount of uplink resources applicable to the HARQ processes used to uplink data transmissions.

63. (Previously Presented) The mobile communication system according to claim 62, wherein the other base stations of said plurality of base stations schedule at least one other mobile terminal in communication with a respective base station taking into account the

indicated applicability of allocated maximum amount of uplink resources for uplink data transmissions on the HARQ processes for said mobile terminal in soft handover.

64-74. (Canceled).

75. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the uplink maximum transmission power ratio is a maximum power ratio of a data channel to a control channel for uplink transmissions.